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Agenda items 121 and 123

# REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS

# PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995

## High-level posts

## Third report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the Secretary-General's report relating to high-level posts (A/C.5/48/9 and Add.1).

2. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 3 of the addendum to his report that the Secretary-General proposes to redeploy to the Department of Peace-keeping Operations a post at the Assistant Secretary-General level, currently in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, heading the Protocol and Liaison Service. This would give the Department of Peace-keeping Operations a senior structure of one Under-Secretary-General and two Assistant Secretaries-General. The protocol and liaison functions would be exercised at the D-2 level utilizing a post within the existing staffing table of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General. The Committee shares the view of the Secretary-General that it is necessary to strengthen the senior management of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations to enhance its capacity to cope with the major increase in the range and scope of its responsibilities. As for the protocol and liaison post, the Committee recalls that in its first report on the proposed programme budget for 1986-1987 it recommended against reclassifying the D-2 post of the Chief of Protocol to the level of Assistant Secretary-General. 1/ In the circumstances, the Committee recommends approval of these proposals.

3. As indicated in paragraph 19 of his report (A/C.5/48/9) with regard to the Department of Political Affairs, "in furtherance of an integrated approach, the Secretary-General proposes that the Department be headed by a single Under-Secretary-General supported by two Assistant Secretaries-General". The

Committee is in agreement with this proposal. However, in order to give effect to the proposal, the Committee recommends that the additional Assistant Secretary-General post be accommodated through the downgrading of the Under-Secretary-General post proposed for abolition in paragraph 4 of the addendum to the Secretary-General's report, pending such action as the General Assembly may take with regard to the restructuring of the Department of Administration and Management (see para.6 below).

4. As indicated in paragraph 8 of the addendum to his report, the Secretary-General proposes to establish a post at the Assistant Secretary-General level to provide for a senior manager for the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). The Committee recalls that the General Assembly, in paragraph 3 (c) of section I of its resolution 47/212 B:

> "Decides to defer action on the proposal of the Secretary-General to abolish the post of Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and requests him to reconsider his proposal and to report in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 on the future secretariat support arrangements for the United Nations Environment Programme and Habitat, including the question of separate senior management arrangements for Habitat, taking into account the views and recommendations of the Commission on Human Settlements, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Economic and Social Council and the views expressed by Member States".

It is the view of the Committee that the Secretary-General's proposal regarding institutional arrangements in Nairobi is a policy question which requires an intergovernmental decision. In this connection, the Committee requests the Secretary-General to keep the proposal under review.

5. In paragraph 13 of his report, the Secretary-General proposes to leave two Assistant Secretary-General posts in the Department of Administration and Management. The Committee notes that one of the Assistant Secretaries-General would serve as Controller and oversee both the budgetary and personnel functions of the Department and the other would oversee both the functions relating to conference services and general services. The Committee recalls paragraph 3 (a) of section I of General Assembly resolution 47/212 B, by which the Assembly decided:

> "to defer action on the proposal of the Secretary-General to abolish the four high-level posts in the Department of Administration and Management and, in this regard, requested him to reconsider his proposals relating to these posts with a view to ensuring that the most senior officials of that Department have a degree of authority that is equivalent to that of the most senior officials in other areas of the United Nations".

6. In this connection, the Committee observes that the Secretary-General has not explained fully why he has decided to retain two Assistant Secretaries-General posts instead of four. The Committee is of the opinion that, by downgrading to a D-2 level the head of the Human Resources Management structure in the Secretariat, the Secretary-General does not meet the request contained in paragraph 2 of section I of General Assembly resolution 45/239 I "to strengthen

the role and emphasize the authority of the Office of Human Resources Management of the Secretariat in accordance with recommendations 41 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administration and Financial Functioning of the United Nations". Moreover, while under the Secretary-General's proposal the Comptroller would have line authority over the Office of Programme Planning Budget and Finance in addition to supervising the Office of Human Resources Management, the precise nature of the functions of the second Assistant Secretary-General is unclear to the Committee. The Advisory Committee therefore recommends that the Secretary-General be requested to resubmit his proposals for the senior structure of the Department of Administration and Management, taking into account the relevant views and decisions of the General Assembly and the need to elaborate upon and fully explain and justify these proposals.

7. The Secretary-General proposes to redeploy two D-2 posts to the Department of Administration and Management, one from section 3 and the other from section 10 (see paras. 4 and 7 of the addendum to the Secretary-General's report). These redeployments are intended to compensate the two Assistant Secretaries-General posts redeployed from the Department of Administration and Management. The Committee recommends that, pending such action as the General Assembly may take with regard to the restructuring of the Department of Administration and Management, sections 3 and 10 should remain unchanged (see para. 6 above).

8. In paragraph 9 (c) of the addendum to his report, the Secretary-General proposes to redeploy to the Department of Administration and Management posts and operational resources relating to the provision of secretariat services to the General Assembly and to the Security Council. Upon inquiry, the Committee was informed that all the "substantive reports" submitted to either the General Assembly or the Security Council would be prepared by the substantive departments concerned. In this connection, it is the view of the Committee that since the secretariat services of other intergovernmental policy-making organs of the United Nations like the Economic and Social Council have not been transferred, the functional basis for the transfer has not been consistently applied. The Committee was also informed that several tasks carried out in this unit involve substantive matters and, as such, require knowledge and experience in the political area. The Committee recommends that the Secretary-General should be requested to explain further the reasons for this proposal.

9. The proposal relating to the Office of Inspections and Investigations is outlined in paragraph 10 of the addendum to the Secretary-General's report. The Committee's recommendations on this proposal appear in its report on the Secretary-General's report on the office of Inspections and Investigations (A/C.5/48/42).

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/40/7, para. 1.30).

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# PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

# PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995

## Financing of the International Civilian Mission to Haiti

## Fourth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/48/27), which provides information on the financial performance of the International Civilian Mission to Haiti (MICIVIH) for the period from 1 February to 31 December 1993 and the cost estimates for MICIVIH for the period from 1 January to 31 March 1994. During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General who provided additional information to the Committee.

2. The Secretary-General estimates the cost for the period 1 January to 31 March 1994 at $5,936,400. Annexes IV and V to the Secretary-General's report provide a summary statement and supplementary information in respect of this estimate.

3. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 8 of the Secretary-General's report that, on the basis of the agreement entered into between the Organization of American States (OAS) and the United Nations, the latter would be fully responsible for costs of local staff engaged by the United Nations and by OAS, while OAS would assume full responsibility for the costs of all office accommodation, utilities and commercial communication required by the joint mission. This explains why the number of local level posts indicated in annex V to the Secretary-General's report under temporary posts is 254, instead of the previously authorized number of 127 which appears in annex I to the same report.

4. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 14 of the Secretary-General's report that although MICIVIH has suspended operation in Haiti since 15 October 1993 and evacuated international and national staff to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (except for a small core group), the cost estimates for MICIVIH for the period 1 January to 31 March 1994 were prepared on the assumption that the normal work would resume in Haiti at the beginning of December.

5. It is the view of the Advisory Committee that the events that have taken place in Haiti since 15 October 1993 will affect the operation of MICIVIH for the period from 1 January to 31 March 1994. For example, it is doubtful that all of the 188 international staff would be deployed as of 1 January 1994. It is also doubtful that, given the present circumstances, consultants would be required during that period. The implementation of public information and human rights education also assumes a normal operation of the mission which at this stage is questionable.

6. Taking into account its observations, the Committee recommends that the estimate of $4 million for MICIVIH should be approved for the period 1 January to 31 March 1994. Should the mission continue beyond 31 March 1994 and/or developments occur between January and March which require more resources, the Secretary-General could seek the concurrence of the Advisory Committee to enter into related commitments under the terms of the General Assembly resolution to be adopted on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 1994-1995.

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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council at its organizational and substantive sessions of 1993

Fifth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/48/19), in which he submits revised estimates attributable to resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its organizational and substantive sessions of 1993. During its consideration of the above-mentioned report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General who provided additional information.

2. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Secretary-General's report that the total estimated requirements arising out of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council amount to $1,755,900 for the year 1993 and $14,422,200 for the biennium 1994-1995, totalling $16,178,100, and that the total requirements cover both conference-servicing ($9,673,500) and substantive ($6,504,600) costs.

3. However, for reasons given in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Secretary-General's report, no appropriation has been requested for conference-servicing costs nor against requirements for 1993. With regard to the substantive additional requirements for the biennium 1994-1995, the total amount is $5,657,500. Of this, an amount of $3,190,900 has already been requested in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. Consequently, total additional requirements for activities derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the proposed programme budget for 1994-1995, amount to $2,466,600. The table

following paragraph 6 of the report indicates the budget sections against which the additional requirements are requested.

4. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraphs 44 to 52 of the report of the Secretary-General that an amount of $2,592,300 is requested for the biennium 1994-1995 for the implementation of Economic and Social Council decision 1993/254 of 28 July 1993 on the situation of human rights in Cambodia. As indicated in paragraph 52 of the report, the amounts requested are for items, such as salary and common staff costs ($2,105,900), general temporary assistance ($10,000), travel of the Special Representative ($100,000), travel of staff within Cambodia ($71,000) and operating expenses ($305,400). As indicated in the table following paragraph 6 of the Secretary-General's report, an amount of $2,000,000 has been included for resource growth against section 21 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 in relation to the new Economic and Social Council mandated activities. Thus, the total additional amount requested under section 21 would be $2,003,100.

5. The Advisory Committee, however, believes that the overall estimates for these items are high; there appears to be no proper justification provided for the amount of travel. The Committee also believes that some of the items such as premises and office space could be provided by the host country. No mention has been made of the terms and conditions of service and level of the Special Representative and whether the post would be filled on an "as required" basis.

6. In this connection, the Advisory Committee recalls that by a letter dated 2 September 1993, in which it had concurred in the Secretary-General entering into commitments in an amount not exceeding $288,000 for the financing of activities in 1993, it had also requested that the Secretary-General submit a report which, inter alia, would "present proposals for a continued United Nations human rights presence in Cambodia, its operational requirements, and an indication of the extent to which it could be integrated with other United Nations activities in Cambodia".

7. The Advisory Committee recommends that, at this stage, an amount of $550,000 be approved under section 21 of the programme budget for the first six months of the biennium for financing of activities relating to Economic and Social Council decision 1993/254, pending submission of a report as requested, including details on the Special Representative post, as well as justification for the number and level of all other posts in terms of functions and workload.

8. With regard to the question of defraying travel costs of the representatives of Member States attending meetings of inter-sessional working groups of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as envisaged in paragraph 96 of the Secretary-General's report, the Advisory Committee points out that this procedure was also followed in respect of Council resolution 1992/18.

9. The Advisory Committee was informed that, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/32 of 27 July 1993, which requested the Secretary-General to make available the necessary resources for the participation of the least developed countries in the regional preparatory meetings for the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of

Offenders and the Congress itself, provision has been included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 to enable such participation. The Committee recalls that, following a request by the General Assembly in its decision 46/450 of 20 December 1991, the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly, at its forty-seventh session, a review/evaluation of the current system of travel and related entitlements for members of organs and subsidiary organs. This report requested guidelines from the General Assembly with regard to the issue of exceptional assistance to the least developed countries to enable them to participate in meetings of bodies whose members are not entitled to the payment of travel expenses. The Assembly has deferred consideration of that report. In the meantime and pending consideration of the report, the Assembly may wish, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/32, to grant an exception and approve that the travel expenses of representatives of least developed countries to the regional preparatory meetings for the Ninth Congress, and to the Congress itself, be defrayed.

10. As indicated in the table following paragraph 99, additional requirements of $397,500 and $66,000, arising out of various resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council have been estimated against sections 8 and 9, respectively, of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. The Advisory Committee has no objection to these estimates by the Secretary-General.

11. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that, at this stage, the Fifth Committee take note of the estimate of $1,013,500 inclusive of the amount of $550,000 indicated in paragraph 7 above, on the understanding that such appropriations as may be necessary will be requested by the Secretary-General in the context of a consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates to be submitted to the General Assembly.

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